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Bangalore Mirror

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BY THE WAYSIDE

Shocked at broken promises, sexual and gender minorities call budget an attack on their right to live with dignity

PAGE 2

NO BACKGROUND CHECK?

When police catch up to thieves who have been on the run for 21 years, they find one of them was working as home guard

PAGE 3

Raid on 2 establishments in busy areas reveals women hired there coaxed into performing, entertaining customers despite strict ban on such activities in city

DANCING IN THE DARK

Women in these bars received only 65% of earnings, while management retained the rest

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's nightlife continues to defy regulations as bars and restaurants in some of the city's busiest areas covertly run live band setups, despite a strict ban.

The recent crackdown by the Women Protection Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on two such establishments, Brigade Nights Bar & Restaurant on Brigade Road and Dawath Bar & Restaurant in Koramangala's 7th Block has once again exposed how these venues exploit women under the guise of employment.

The police raid revealed that women were not merely working as staff but were coaxed into performing and entertaining customers for money, receiving 65% of the earnings while the management retained the rest.

Investigators found that these women were dressed in revealing attire and encouraged to dance, interact with customers, and solicit tips under dim lighting and loud music. Some customers were even allowed to touch and kiss them, creating an exploitative and illegal environment.

> **"If a woman is coerced into performing acts she is uncomfortable with, it is a clear violation of her rights. The employer or any individual forcing her into such activities can be booked under the law**
> — Rajalaxmi Ankalagi, advocate and activist

Lapses in oversight and licencing violations

Despite being employed under the label of bartenders and service staff, the management failed to provide the women mandatory ID cards or obtain labour department licences. CCTV footage examined during the raid revealed indecent acts and blatant rule violations, contradicting both government regulations and High Court directives. The footage also captured a brawl at Brigade Nights on February 18, where a dispute over a performer led to

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Count it slow

BBMP's tree census likely to miss out on last set deadline of March 31 too as work trails in all zones

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nearly six years after the High Court directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to conduct a tree census in the city, the process is still far from completion. After a five-year delay, BBMP started enumerating Bengaluru's trees in February 2024. However, the civic agency is yet again likely to miss the last set deadline of March 31.

According to BBMP sources, the census is expected to be over only by the end of April, provided it is a smooth sail hereon.

According to the agency conducting the census on behalf of BBMP in four out of the eight zones - Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, Yelahanka, and Bengaluru South – the enumeration exercise in these areas will be over only by the end of April.

"We started the process only in February this year, our contract was resumed recently. We currently have 45 men working across these zones. However, we are planning to increase manpower to 120-140 men so we can wrap up the work sooner," said JyotiRam Bahinipati of Envirotech, the environmental branch of EL-Mech Engineering and Services, the company

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Pixel perfect

Museum of Art & Photography is organising a thought-provoking conversation on art, vision, and the power of mobile photography. Designer Janak Mistry will sit down with Rustam Vania to discuss 'DEEP SEE', a book where Mistry has captured the visual journey of India's vibrant diversity, using a mobile phone, focusing not on perfection but on seizing fleeting moments.
Where: Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium, Museum of Art & Photography;
When: March 12, 6.30 pm

02 Classical celebration

Bhoomija and Prestige Centre for Performing Arts are set to mesmerize audiences with 'Holi Re!', a grand celebration of music and dance featuring the legendary Begum Parween Sultana, and the globally acclaimed Nrityagram dance ensemble, presenting artistic traditions.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: March 15, 6.30 pm

03 Clay craft

Small World is organising 'Hands in Clay', an immersive wheel pottery workshop where skilled instructors will provide expert guidance, and foster a supportive environment for beginners and experienced potters alike.
Where: Small World, Koramangala;
When: March 10 to March 13

04 Music mastery

My School of Rock is presenting 'Keyboard Unwind', a comprehensive 90-minute workshop.

From understanding the parts of a keyboard to playing songs, this workshop aims to cover essential topics including the chromatic scale, music theory, forming chords, and applying them melodically.
Where: My School of Rock, Indiranagar;
When: March 11 to April 12

'Can we live only by begging & sex work?'

Sexual minorities in state upset as allocation of budget does not align with promises made in Congress party's election manifesto

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Inset: Leaders of MGSP addressing media at a press conference

The Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism (MGSP) has expressed dismay at the neglect of gender and sexual minorities in the State Budget for 2025-2026. The organisation condemned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, believed to be socialist, progressive, and pro-oppressed, for ignoring gender and sexual minorities.

Vaishali Byali, Co-Chairperson of the Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism, said that press conferences were held in 10 districts from February 28 to March 5, to present demands to the government regarding the budget. "We are saddened by the fact that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has left out gender and sexual minorities while presenting the budget," she said.

State committee member Manohar Elavarthi said that the state government has not fulfilled even a single promise made in the Congress party's election manifesto, in this budget. He opined that this raises a question about the state government's commitment. He said that it is unfortunate that this year's budget has only set aside ₹3 crore for the rehabilitation of the transgender community, and ₹2.54 crore for monthly pensions under Maithri Scheme. "The Congress, which had announced in its election manifesto that it would provide ₹2 lakh to every gender minority person for entrepreneurship and ₹200 crore annually for the all-round development of the community, has become a government that has not fulfilled what it said in its budget after coming to power," he said.

> **"We are saddened by the fact that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has left out gender and sexual minorities while presenting the budget**
>
> –Vaishali Byali, Co-Chairperson of MGSP

Kanta Devi, Co-Chairperson of the Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism, criticised the state government, stating that the budget implies that gender minorities must survive only through begging and sex work. "Does this government believe that we are not worthy of doing any other work for a living? The government is directly responsible for this sad and terrible situation of our livelihood. This budget is an attack on our right to live with dignity," she said.

Speaking about the issue, Syed Shahzaib, a transgender man, said that it is heartbreaking that not a single word about transgender community is included in the 148-page budget of 4 lakh crore. "I had expected that money would be allocated, especially for the development of gender minority men, for our sex reassignment surgeries and entrepreneurship. But this government doesn't care about us at all," he expressed.

Janu, a trans woman, said that even though the Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism held press conferences in Bengaluru, Kolar, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Bellary, Hosapete, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Gadag, and Belgaum before the budget session, the state government has not taken the transgender community seriously. "The government's actions, which are ignoring the continuous struggle of our community, are not right," she said.

The Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism has demanded housing for gender minorities, and a budget for the provision of free sex-reassignment surgeries and post-surgery care support. The organisation has also called for the formulation of a scheme to enable gender minorities to engage in entrepreneurship, along with a budget allocation for training of gender minorities to get jobs under the 1% reservation.

KAUSHIK JN

Voices unite

Members of the Bangalore Regional Tibetan Youth Congress organised a peaceful protest to commemorate the Tibetan Uprising Day, at Freedom Park, on Monday.

KIA introduces sensory room for inclusive travel

To address challenges faced by individuals with sensory or mental health conditions, and promote inclusive air travel, Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced a first-of-its-kind sensory room.

Located near the 080 international lounge at level 4 of terminal 2, the sensory room is a space tailored for neurodivergent passengers and individuals with sensory sensitivities.

"The addition of the sensory room aligns with our mission to create a seamless and stress-free experience for every traveller, ensuring that inclusivity is not just a feature but a core value for us," said Hari Marar, Managing Director and Chief Executing Officer of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

The sensory room is curated to cater to varying sensory needs, ensuring adaptability and inclusivity for all users

Backed by behavioural science and occupational therapy research, the sensory room is expected to provide a calming, engaging, and therapeutic environment for individuals with sensory sensitivities. BIAL, in a release, highlighted that research in sensory regulation and occupational therapy indicates that even brief periods (15–30 minutes) in a calming, sensory-friendly environment can significantly alleviate feelings of being overwhelmed, and enhance well-being, making travel smoother and more manageable. This benefit helps neurodivergent children and adults alike, allowing them to navigate their travel experiences with greater ease and comfort.

Developed in collaboration with Incluzza, the initiative highlights the importance of sensory-friendly spaces in improving emotional regulation, reducing stress, and enhancing overall travel experiences. **–BMB**

Thief on the run turns home guard

Lapses in background verification exposed as 2 arrested 21 years after committing crime

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Serious lapses in background verification before employment have come to light after the Doddaballapur (Bengaluru Rural) police arrested two men, who had been absconding for 21 years. One of the accused had even managed to secure a position as a home guard with the Andhra Pradesh police, raising concerns over recruitment processes in security-related roles.

Officials say many employers neglect proper background checks before hiring individuals, particularly for security guard positions

The case

According to the police, both men identified as Srinivasalu (39) and Nagaraju (47) used to work as security guards at an industrial company in Bashettihalli when they committed an electric motor theft in 2004. Although they were arrested and released on bail, they repeatedly skipped court hearings and remained absconding for over two decades, during which they rebuilt their lives with new identities.

According to the Doddaballapur (Bengaluru Rural) police, the arrest of the duo after 21 years has brought to light serious lapses in background verification before employment. While one of the accused had managed to secure an executive position in a private company, the other was serving as a home guard under the police department in Andhra Pradesh.

Srinivasalu, who was 18 at the time of the crime, went on to complete an MBA and started working as an executive in a private company. Nagaraju, then 23, joined as a home guard, where he served for 13 years, carrying out duties such as escorting accused individuals, driving police vehicles, and managing lock-up responsibilities. His past went undetected, raising concerns over the lack of stringent background checks in recruitment processes.

> **"There should be a state-level mechanism for data exchange between pillars of the criminal justice system**
>
> –Police official

In 2022, Nagaraju reportedly left his wife after a financial dispute. After quitting his home guard position, he took up work as a contract labourer in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, where the police finally tracked him down. And, Srinivasalu was traced back in Dharmavaram, Andhra Pradesh.

Both the accused have now been remanded to judicial custody.

Need for checks

A police official at the Doddaballapur Rural Police Station emphasised the need for a stricter background verification system, highlighting that this is the second such case his station has encountered. "The law-and-order system is state-centric, and the central government cannot interfere. For instance, the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a centrally managed system where data exchange between various pillars of the criminal justice system happen around the country but a state-level mechanism should also be in place for better oversight," a police official stated.

Officials further pointed out that many employers neglect proper background checks before hiring individuals, particularly for security guard positions. Companies often prioritise cheap labour over thorough verification, accepting money from candidates but failing to cross-check their credentials, the police official added.

Stay on consumer forum's order holding theatre responsible for advert delay

Wait and watch: Directions against PVR Cinemas without jurisdiction, rules High Court

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court issued an interim stay until March 27 on the Bangalore District Consumer Commission's order that held PVR Cinemas responsible for compensation due to extended advertisement screenings before films.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, whilst hearing a petition by Multiplex Association of India, stated, "The Consumer Forum accepts the plea of petitioner and traverses the complaint and answers the complaint as if it has jurisdiction akin to a public interest petition. It indulges in a discourse about how a movie show should be run and directs that the theatres should not project advertisements, as it would become unfair trade practice. All these directions of the consumer forum are on the face of it without jurisdiction."

The court rejected the government's argument regarding appellate remedy availability with the State Consumer Forum, noting that Article 226 jurisdiction remains unaffected by appeal provisions, particularly in cases of clear jurisdictional violations.

The court ordered a stay and issued notices to the State and complainant Abhishek MR, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the petitioner, highlighted the national significance of the case, stating: "Mischief mongers have already started creating problems against us. The council has no jurisdiction to do this."

Delay

The case originated when the complainant purchased three tickets for 'Sam Bahadur' at PVR Cinemas in Bengaluru for Rs. 825.66. Despite the scheduled 4:05 pm start time for the 2-hour-25-minute film, viewers endured an additional 25-minute delay. The complainant argued before the forum about intangible losses from delayed screening times, constituting service deficiency. The forum found the theatre had breached government guidelines permitting only 10 minutes for public service announcements and welfare schemes.

The Commission supported the complainant's stance, acknowledging its broader impact on other viewers. It ordered PVR Cinemas to display accurate screening times on tickets and directed PVR Cinemas and PVR Inox Ltd to pay Rs 20,000 for mental distress, Rs 8,000 for legal expenses, and Rs 1,00,000 as punitive damages for the Consumer Welfare Fund.

IN BRIEF

Waste material gutted in KR Market fire

A massive fire broke out in an open space at KR Market on Monday afternoon, reducing large quantities of waste materials, including paper, plastic, gunny bags, and plastic pipes, to ashes.

The fire erupted around 1.30 pm near the Krishnaraja fruit and vegetable market, creating panic among shop owners and passersby. Locals initially attempted to control the flames using water, but as the fire intensified, the situation grew out of control. Thick smoke engulfed the area, spreading near the KR Market Flyover, raising concerns among the public.

Fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and managed to bring the fire under control before it could spread further. Fortunately, no injuries or property damage were reported. Officials suspect that an accidental fire in a pile of garbage may have triggered the incident. Officals have urged vendors and the public to exercise caution while disposing of waste material. **BMB**

Scuffle at mall between colleagues turns fatal

A minor disagreement between two colleagues turned deadly when a garbage picker was fatally stabbed at Forum Mall on Kanakapura Road on Saturday, around 8 pm.

The victim, identified as Basavaraju (37), and the accused, Mayappa (60), both hailed from Kanakapura and worked as garbage pickers at the mall. According to police, the altercation began over a trivial issue regarding garbage collection. Basavaraju instructed Mayappa to remove the waste properly, which led to an argument. In a fit of rage, Mayappa picked up a plastic-cutting knife from the mall and stabbed Basavaraju. The victim collapsed on the spot due to excessive bleeding and succumbed to his injuries before medical help could arrive. The Konanakunte police arrived at the scene and arrested Mayappa. **BMB**

Ranya Rao case: Businessman's son held

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested Tarun Raju, son of a prominent city businessman, in connection with the high-profile gold smuggling case involving actress Ranya Rao.

Investigations have revealed that Tarun and Ranya have been close friends for years and were in regular contact. Officials found evidence of their frequent communication, including overseas trips together. Tarun was produced before the court on Monday and remanded in DRI custody until March 15.

As part of the probe, Ranya's mobile phone records were examined, uncovering contacts with several ministers, former ministers, and police officials. To gather more evidence, the DRI is analysing her call detail records (CDR) for additional insights. The Special Economic Offences Court on Monday ordered Ranya Rao into judicial custody. **BMB**

Writing on the wall: Citizens deserve roads, not mud paths

Fed up with neglect, residents of areas near Outer Ring Road protest against poor road conditions, demanding permanent repairs and accountability from BBMP for recurring issues

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Frustrated by years of neglect, many residents gathered on Outer Ring Road (ORR) opposite Sakra Hospital on Monday, demanding immediate action to fix the severely damaged road that has turned daily commuting into a nightmare. The protest saw participation from hospital employees, school students, delivery workers, and apartment residents, all carrying banners that read "We Deserve Roads, Not Mud Paths!" and "ISRO Moon Practice Area," mocking the road's cratered condition. The demonstration, approved by the police, remained peaceful.

Protesters stand along the ORR with scathing messages on banners, on Monday morning

'We won't stop until we get a proper road'

Anger is mounting as residents hold Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) responsible for the road's recurring deterioration. "We won't stop until we get a proper road that isn't washed away or dug up every few months," said a protestor. The stretch between Sakra Hospital and Bellandur Lake Road has become a hazardous mud path, frequently excavated and left unrepaired. Over the past three to four years, the situation has worsened, with temporary gravel layers either washed away or damaged by repeated digging.

Unsafe road, frequent accidents

Two-wheelers struggle to navigate the road, and even SUVs get stuck, said Vignesh, a local resident. "Delivery workers face difficulties, and accidents are frequent. During the rainy season, this stretch becomes a waterlogged nightmare, with gushing water making it resemble an abandoned construction site," he added.

Residents claim that BBMP dumped gravel last week after another protest, but without proper repairs, it will wash away in days.

> **"During the rainy season, this stretch becomes a waterlogged nightmare, with gushing water making it resemble an abandoned construction sites** –Vignesh, local resident

Repeated complaints, no action

"We have raised our concerns repeatedly, filed complaints with BBMP's grievance cell, and spoken to officials," said Dhanush, a local resident. "They repair it, someone digs it up again, and the cycle continues." Ironically, the area is home to several top executives from Bengaluru's biggest companies, yet they too endure the same poor road conditions. "If this is the state of roads here, what about middle-class neighbourhoods?" questioned a protester.

BBMP yet to respond

Despite infrastructure budgets announced annually, residents feel city's basic needs are neglected. "The Deputy CM presents massive budgets, but what's the use if we can't even get a proper road?" asked a resident. With growing public outrage, citizens are demanding accountability from BBMP and a solution. As protesters vowed to continue their agitation, one declared, "We won't stop until we get the road we deserve." **–Sandra S**

Celebrating the legend

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To honour the legacy of legendary Sandalwood star Puneeth Rajkumar, the Department of Posts, Karnataka Circle, in collaboration with Urvi Fragrances, released a special picture postcard on Monday. The postcard features a striking image of Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar along with a unique design showcasing his cinematic journey. A set of five picture postcards, priced at Rs 75, is available for purchase at the Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office. They are also expected to be available at other Philatelic Bureaus in Mangaluru, Belagavi, and Mysuru.

"We are releasing the picture postcards on the occasion of Dr Puneeth Rajkumar's 50th birth anniversary. We had an opportunity to release a stamp on Puneeth Rajkumar last year. I am very happy to release picture postcards of Dr Puneeth Rajkumar," said Postmaster General Dr Chandra Sekhar Kakumanu.

Special Picture Postcard on Dr Puneeth Rajkumar being released at the GPO on Monday

He expressed his happiness over Sandalwood star Daali Dhananjaya using inland letters as his wedding invitation cards. "Though it is not possible to say that sales of inland letters have gone up due to Daali Dhananjaya using inland letters as invitations for his wedding. I can say that it has made inland letters popular and also facilitated children to know about inland letters," he said

Speaking on the occasion, Urvi Fragrances Managing Director Rajesh Raghunandan said his company would contribute a portion of the revenue from the sales of Appu's Gandhadagudi Agarbathies to an afforestation drive. "We will donate a portion of the revenue to the afforestation drive, which is very dear to Appu. We have tied up with Prasidhi Foundation," he said.

ATM defunct

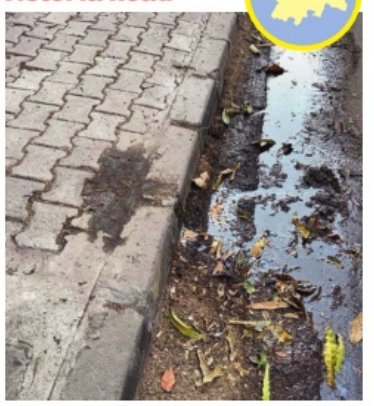
KAUSHIK JN

The ATM at the General Post Office has remained defunct for over two months, causing inconvenience to users. A "No Cash" board greets those attempting to withdraw money.
The ATM was inaugurated by then Union Minister for Communications & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad on April 2, 2015, the ATM is among seven in Bengaluru and 70 across the state. "We are aware of the issue and have taken it up with the concerned department. The problem appears to be with the service vendor, affecting all ATMs for the past two months," said the Postmaster, GPO.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Unfixed leak
Victoria Road



Persistent water leakage between Plot No. 18/1 and 19 continues unchecked. Despite multiple complaints to BWSSB, no action has been taken.

Road blockage
HAL

1st Main Service Road, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra, has become a permanent parking lot, despite being a no-parking zone and a narrow two-lane road, causing traffic congestion.

Infrastructure neglect
Begur Road

Classic Paradise on Begur Road was dug up by BWSSB four years ago for drainage work and has since been left in a severely damaged state, causing inconvenience to residents.

Goods vehicle crushes 27-year-old pillion rider to death

A 27-year-old was killed when a speeding goods vehicle hit the two-wheeler he was in near the TOT junction, Ramachandra Road, Gandhinagar under the Upparpet traffic police station limits, on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Harish Kumar, a resident of JC Road. According to the police, Harish was riding a two-wheeler and on his way towards TOT Junction around 12.50 am when a goods vehicle approaching from Janata Bazaar, crashed into the two-wheeler. The impact of the collision was severe, leading to the rider's death on the spot.

Preliminary investigations suggest that speeding and negligent driving by the goods vehicle driver were the primary causes of the accident. A complaint has been filed at Upparpet Traffic Police Station, and a case has been registered under relevant sections of the law. Police are now on the lookout for the accused and are reviewing CCTV footage from the area to trace the vehicle.

Man dies after speeding car rams into 2-wheeler

A speeding car collided with a two-wheeler, leading to the death of the pillion rider, near Jakkur Cross, Uday Dhaba, on the Bengaluru-Ballari Road.

The deceased, identified as Sandeep (42), a resident of Balaji Layout, Kodigehalli, was a cab driver by profession. He was riding pillion on the scooter that his friend Harish Kumar, a real estate agent, was riding. The duo had gone to inspect a site and was returning home around 9.30 pm when the accident took place.

While Harish escaped with minor injuries, Sandeep sustained severe injuries and was rushed to the hospital. Despite medical efforts, he succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning.

The driver of the car fled the scene without stopping. Yelahanka Traffic Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace the vehicle and the accused driver.

Transport dept switches LED lights off private buses

477 cases booked against vehicles with snazzy lighting as they are deemed distractions to other drivers

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

It is common to see private buses being designed with dazzling LED lights. However, the Transport Department has intensified enforcement against violations in public and private transport vehicles. Authorities have registered cases against violators, collecting Rs 23,77,833 in fines in 2024-25. A significant portion of the violations pertains to unauthorised LED light installations in private buses, with 477 cases booked and Rs 1,03,500 levied as fines. However, no cases have been reported against vehicles using DJ sound systems or dancing floors.

During a recent reply in the Legislative Council, Transport Minister N Ramalinga Reddy said, "The department has taken a zero-tolerance approach toward unauthorised modifications that compromise passenger safety. As per Motor Vehicles Act regulations, public transport vehicles must adhere to strict guidelines regarding structural modifications, including lighting. The installation of LED lights inside and outside buses has been deemed a distraction for drivers and other motorists, posing a potential risk on the roads."

He said that transport officials have ramped up inspections across the state, ensuring compliance with safety norms. Bus operators found violating these rules are being heavily penalised, with repeat offenders facing stricter action, including suspension of vehicle permits. Authorities have also issued warnings to private bus operators, urging them to remove unauthorised LED lighting systems immediately to avoid further penalties.

"With increased vigilance, the Transport Department aims to curb illegal modifications and reinforce passenger and road safety. Officials have stressed that inspections will continue unabated, and violators will face swift legal action to maintain safety standards on Karnataka's roads," Reddy added.

No cases against vehicles using DJ sound systems or dance floors

> **"As per Motor Vehicles Act regulations, public transport vehicles must adhere to strict guidelines regarding structural modifications, including lighting**
>
> –Ramalinga Reddy, transport minister

Heat is high, but veggie prices are low

Vegetable and leafy green prices have dipped, with wholesale rates hovering around Rs 30 per kg, while retail prices range between Rs 50- Rs 60 per kg. Unlike previous summers, when vegetable prices would skyrocket due to water shortages and power cuts affecting crop yields, this year, these challenges have not surfaced so far. Most vegetable prices have come down, except for beans, which have risen from Rs 50 per kg last week to Rs 64 per kg. Other vegetables, including brinjal, radish, tomatoes, and onions, have seen a price drop, along with leafy greens. Ginger is currently priced at Rs 30 per kg, while cabbage and radish cost around Rs 15-Rs 20 per kg, and green peas have dipped to Rs 4 per kg.

Traders said that despite high temperatures, crops have remained largely unaffected by diseases, ensuring stable supply. Additionally, vegetables arriving from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, along with tomatoes from Nashik, have helped maintain market balance.

However, carrot prices continue to surge due to lower yields, currently ranging between Rs 60-Rs 70 per kg. According to Prakash, owner of a wholesale shop at Dasanapura sub-market, "Vegetable prices might see an increase after Ugadi. Meanwhile, at HOPCOMS, beans are priced at Rs 64 per kg, white brinjal at Rs 32, round brinjal at Rs 28, thick capsicum at Rs 41, radish at Rs 26, drumstick at Rs 90, beetroot at Rs 26, cabbage at Rs 26, Delhi carrot at Rs 82, tomato at Rs 20, bottle gourd at Rs 27, onion at Rs 52, and garlic at Rs 175 per kg." –BMB

Covid vaccine plea disposed of

The High Court on Monday concluded a 2022 petition by Vinod Kumar MN requesting authorities to provide him with a second dose of Covid vaccine.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding as a single judge, stated, "The petitioner is before this court seeking a direction for a second dose of covid vaccine; covid-19 has subsided and vaccines have become unnecessary today. Therefore the petition is disposed of as having become unnecessary." The petitioner contended that under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, he was entitled to receive a second dose of covid-19 vaccine, similar to other Indian citizens. Additionally, he requested the court to instruct the State government or any Mysuru-based hospital to administer his second dose of covid-19 vaccination.

Whilst covid-19 vaccines offer robust protection against serious illness and fatality, vaccinated individuals may still contract the virus, albeit typically experiencing mild or no symptoms. –BMB

1 arrested for Rs 70-lakh Kumbh Mela tour fraud

The Govindarajanagar police have arrested a man accused of defrauding over 100 people by falsely promising a pilgrimage to the Mahakumbh Mela. The accused, Raghavendra Rao (35), a resident of CKW Layout, allegedly collected around Rs 70 lakh from devotees under the pretense of organising a religious tour.

Raghavendra Rao ran a travel business under the name Panchajanya Tours and Travels, through which he advertised a 14-day pilgrimage package to prominent religious sites like Ayodhya, Kashi, Prayagraj, and Varanasi. He promoted the tour on Facebook, charging 49,000 per person for a seven-day package.

To gain the trust of his customers, he initially took a small group on a successful trip. However, after collecting money from over 100 people for subsequent tours, he failed to arrange any travel and vanished with the funds. Investigations revealed that instead of organising the pilgrimage, Raghavendra invested the money in a betting app, hoping for high returns. As complaints started pouring in, police launched an investigation and arrested him.

So far, 21 victims have officially lodged complaints, and authorities believe more people may have been duped. The police are now interrogating the accused and gathering further evidence. Officials have urged people to verify agencies before making payments. The Govindarajanagar police have registered a case. –BMB

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CIN : U15100MH1950GOI008187 Website : www.irel.co.in
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Unleashing Values

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IREL (India) Limited invites RFP (GeM Bid. No. GEM/2025/B/6032633 dated 07.03.2025) for Selection of Manpower Staffing Agency for Providing Outsourced Manpower. Bidders may download the tender document available in our website https://irel.co.in and submit their bid in https://gem.gov.in. Any corrigendum(s)/ extension(s) to above tender shall be hosted in above websites only.

CBC 48129/12/0006/2425 GM-T

When it comes to organ donations, Bengaluru leads the way in state

Even so, 4,364 patients on waiting list for life-saving organs; pledges and awareness rise, but demand-supply gap persists

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
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File photo of a medical team transporting an organ for transplant

Bengaluru Urban recorded 2,282 pledges on Jeevasarthakathe and 5,368 on NOTTO, while Bengaluru Rural saw 536 pledges on Jeevasarthakathe and 713 on NOTTO. Government offers Rs 10,000 funeral aid to families of donors, and urges more pledge

Bengaluru continues to lead Karnataka in organ donation pledges and transplants, but the number of patients waiting for life-saving organs remains significantly high. As per the latest data, 4,364 patients in Bengaluru City are currently on the waiting list for organ transplants, the highest in the state. Despite increased awareness and pledges, the gap between demand and availability of organs remains a challenge.

During a recent legislative session, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao highlighted the state government's efforts to promote organ donation. "To recognise and encourage organ donation, the Karnataka government has initiated multiple measures. Families of organ donors are honoured with appreciation certificates signed by the Chief Minister and Health Minister. These families are publicly felicitated every Republic Day (January 26) and Independence Day (August 15), as well as on Organ Donation Day (August 3), by the district administration and ministers-in-charge," he said.

Organ donation pledges

Bengaluru has emerged as the frontrunner in organ donation pledges across Karnataka, surpassing both urban and rural districts in registrations. Bengaluru Urban recorded 2,282 pledges on Jeevasarthakathe and 5,368 on the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) platform, while Bengaluru Rural saw 536 pledges on Jeevasarthakathe and 713 on NOTTO. This reflects a strong public commitment to organ donation, but the demand still far exceeds the available supply.

State wide, Karnataka has seen 75,017 individuals pledge their organs. Yet, with 5,948 patients awaiting transplants, the disparity between pledges and actual donations remains stark. To further encourage participation, NOTTO has introduced a financial assistance scheme, currently in process, offering Rs 10,000 towards the funeral expenses of deceased organ donors. The initiative aims to promote organ donation and ensure that this noble act receives the recognition and support it deserves.

Bengaluru's role in organ transplant

Out of the 5,511 organ transplants conducted so far in Karnataka, a significant number have taken place in Bengaluru. The city, home to some of the state's top hospitals and transplant centres, continues to be the epicentre of organ donation and transplantation efforts, thanks to its advanced medical infrastructure and specialised facilities.

Calls for increased participation

Despite these encouraging numbers, thousands in Bengaluru are still waiting for organ transplants. The government, through Jeevasarthakathe and NOTTO, is pushing for greater awareness and participation to bridge this gap. Residents are urged to come forward and pledge their organs, ensuring that more lives can be saved through timely transplants.

Tipu Sultan's rare self defence sword discovered

A rare sword once used by Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan for self-defense has been discovered in Karnataka. The sword has been acquired by Bengaluru-based Sharvani Antiques, Gems, and Jewellery Company. This particular artifact is considered highly significant as it was part of Tipu Sultan's personal armory. Historians have urged the state government to purchase the sword and preserve it in a museum for public display.

The weapon bears Tipu Sultan's name engraved in gold in Persian script, along with moon symbols. Its handle is made of copper with a gold coating. Measuring 10.16 cm in width and 91.44 cm in length, the sword was crafted using advanced steel technology of its time. "Tipu Sultan used this sword exclusively for self-defence. It holds immense historical value," said historian Dr B Ramachari.

Following Tipu Sultan's death in 1799 during the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, the sword was reportedly found by Diwan Purnaiah. Historians believe it later passed into the possession of the Mysore royal family. More than a decade ago, a licensed private firm, authorized by the Archaeology Department, legally acquired the sword from the royal family and has preserved it since then.

After a thorough examination, the State Archaeology and Museum Department certified the sword as an exceptionally rare historical artifact. Unlike other swords attributed to Tipu Sultan, which primarily feature Quranic inscriptions, this particular sword uniquely bears his name. Experts suggest the ruler personally carried it for self-defense on certain occasions.

"The sword was legally purchased by a private firm from a royal descendant more than a decade ago. Historians, Muslim scholars, and archaeology experts have reviewed it and affirmed its rarity. They insist that the sword should be handed over to the government for preservation in a museum," Dr Ramachari added. **-BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Lack of development hampers Karnataka's coastal tourism

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Despite vast opportunities for coastal tourism, the lack of development continues to hinder its full potential. The much-talked-about beach development plans remain mere announcements, leaving several scenic coastal stretches underutilised.

Scenic beauty and tourism appeal

Vedika D a travel enthusiast said, "Karnataka's coastline is a treasure trove of natural beauty, with roaring waves, pristine white sands, coconut groves, and breath taking sunsets creating a mesmerizing experience. A cool sea breeze adds to the charm, making evenings at the beach a refreshing and peaceful retreat. For generations, both locals and tourists have flocked to these shores, with the number of visitors increasing each year. However, the absence of proper amenities and infrastructure limits its full potential as a prime tourist destination."

Need for better infrastructure

"To enhance the experience for tourists, essential amenities such as seating benches, shaded areas, drinking water facilities, and cafés should be provided," said Dinesh K, a travel expert. "While some beaches have benefited from private partnerships that have helped establish proper infrastructure, several others remain neglected. Despite the Swadesh Darshan scheme introduced by the Central Government to promote tourism, its implementation in coastal regions remains sluggish. Each beach faces unique challenges, and although the district administration has drafted multiple plans, very few have been executed. When questioned, authorities often cite Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules as the primary obstacle."

Stunning coastal landscapes attract visitors, yet lack of infrastructure and delayed development plans hinder Karnataka's full tourism potential

Government approvals and development plans

As per the recommendations of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has approved Karnataka's Coastal Zone Management Plan, which permits regulated tourism activities. This includes the establishment of hotels, jetties, water sports, and adventure activities—all crucial for tourism-driven economic growth. Proper development of coastal tourism can generate direct and indirect employment opportunities, increase local income, and significantly boost socio-economic development.

Major beaches in Dakshina Kannada

Several beaches in the region hold immense potential for tourism development. Some of the prominent ones include:

- Someshwara Beach
- Uchila Battapady Beach
- Tannirbhavi Beach (Blue Flag Certified)
- Tannirbhavi First Beach
- Panambur Beach
- Chitrapura Beach
- Hosabettu Beach
- Idya Beach
- Sasihithlu Beach
- Surathkal Beach

Winner takes it all

Ravindra Jadeja wins 'Fielder of the Match' medal; Rachin Ravindra claims Golden Bat

IN FOCUS: SPORTS

Ravindra Jadeja wins 'Fielder of the Match' medal; Rachin Ravindra claims Golden Bat

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja received the best fielder of the match medal for his exceptional fielding skills displayed during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final against New Zealand at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Jadeja received the medal from the team's fielding coach, T Dilip. Along with Jadeja, Men in Blue skipper Rohit Sharma was also nominated for this award.

A swift half-century from skipper Rohit Sharma, a fine knock by Shreyas Iyer, and good spells from spinners, in particular Varun Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav, helped an all-round India seal their third ICC Champions Trophy title, beating New Zealand by four wickets in Dubai on Sunday.

Men in Blue skipper Rohit Sharma was awarded the Player of the Match for his brilliant performance in the championship game. He played an exceptional knock of 76 runs from 83 balls, which was laced with seven boundaries and three maximums.

Kiwis opener Rachin Ravindra claimed the Golden Bat for most runs and 'Player of the Tournament' for his scintillating performances in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. In four matches, Rachin made 263 runs at an average of 65.75, with a strike rate of 106.47, with two centuries- against Bangladesh in the league stage and South Africa in the semifinal. He also picked up three crucial wickets across these matches. In the final, he made a quick-fire 37 in 29 balls, with four boundaries and a six that gave his team a fine start.

New Zealand right-arm seamer Matt Henry finished as the highest wicket-taker in the recently concluded ICC Champions Trophy, which took place in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. Henry finished the tournament with a total of 10 wickets in the four matches at an average of 16.70 with one fifer against India in the group stage. —ANI

Illegal relocations: Centre asks tribal welfare dept to take action

After the issue of the alleged illegal relocation of forest dwellers in buffer areas of Kali Tiger Reserve and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary was highlighted nearly a month ago, the Union Government has approached the Tribal Welfare/ Development Department of the Government of Karnataka to take necessary action.

The letter by the Under Secretary of the Government of India underlines that field-level problems during relocation and rehabilitation of tribal communities from forest areas have to be resolved by the state-level monitoring committee constituted under the Forest Reservation Act.

"Section 4(2) of FRA provides certain conditions that need to be adhered to before the state government commences relocation in any of the forest areas, including tiger reserves. (In response to the issue highlighted) the state government should take necessary actions which will mitigate challenges faced by these communities," said the letter dated March 6.

The letter is in response to a complaint raised by a citizen to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Central Environment ministry a month ago. The citizen, in the written complaint, had requested criminal prosecution of officials carrying out the relocation of forest dwellers in these areas.

The letter from the Central government also underlines that the Forest Right Act and Wildlife Protection Act also provide safeguards to forest-dwelling communities, which include obtaining free and informed consent from the Gram Sabha.

"The state-level monitoring committee of the FRA has to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights. Consequently, the representation is being forwarded to the state government of Karnataka to take necessary action to mitigate the challenges faced by the community. The petitioner should be kept informed under intimation to this Ministry," noted the letter also sent to NTCA. —BMB

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Maradona trial stirs up emotions

Argentina will begin a trial this week into the medical team of late soccer icon Diego Maradona over homicide by negligence, a case that has charged up emotions in the country where the World Cup winner still commands almost God-like reverence.

The trial, expected to last for months, starts on Tuesday, over four years after Maradona's death in November 2020 from heart failure at age 60 after undergoing brain surgery days earlier. His medical team generally rejects the charges. A court in San Isidro, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, will listen to nearly 120 testimonies. The defendants are charged with "simple homicide with eventual intent" in the treatment of the former Boca Juniors and Napoli player. Maradona's death rocked the South American nation where he was revered, prompting a period of mourning.

Reuters

30 nations stand for Ukraine

Military officials from more than 30 nations will take part in Paris talks on the creation of an international security force for Ukraine, a French military official said Monday.

Such an international force would aim to dissuade Russia from launching another offensive after any ceasefire in Ukraine comes into effect.

The long list of participants in Tuesday's discussions will also include Asian and Oceania nations that will join remotely, the French official said.

The international makeup of the meeting offers an indication of how broadly France and Britain build what the French official described as a coalition of nations "able and willing" to be part of an effort to safeguard Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire.

The French military official spoke to The Associated Press to discuss the blueprint for the force that is shrouded in secrecy. —AP

'Collective punishment'

Israel's suspension of goods entering Gaza is taking a toll on the Palestinian enclave, with some bakeries closing and food prices rising, while a cut in the electricity supply could deprive people of clean water, Palestinian officials said.

The suspension, which Israel said was aimed at pressuring militant group Hamas in ceasefire talks, applies to food, medicine and fuel imports.

The UN Palestinian refugees agency UNRWA said the decision to halt humanitarian aid threatens the lives of civilians exhausted by 17 months of "brutal" war. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people were dependent on aid, it said.

Hamas describes the measure as "collective punishment" and insisted it will not be pushed into making concessions at the discussions.

Abdel-Nasser Al-Ajrami, head of the Gaza bakers' union, told Reuters that six out of the 22 bakeries still able to operate in the enclave had already shut after they ran out of cooking gas. AP

CLOSERHOME

Caretaker dies and 'Police Lake' slips back into neglect

The once-revived Harapanahalli Lake, popularly known as 'Police Lake', is once again turning polluted due to neglect, despite the dedicated efforts of police officers in the past. For decades, the lake was filled with waste and emitted a foul odour. In 2018, during his tenure as DYSP of Anekal Subdivision, SK Umesh, along with then Jigani Police Inspector Siddegowda, took the initiative to restore the lake under Kallabalu Gram Panchayat's jurisdiction. The revival effort involved a month-long cleanliness drive carried out by police personnel and local residents. Measures were taken to block the inflow of sewage, and the lake was officially named 'Police Lake'. However, recent reports indicate that the lake is once again turning polluted. "It is disappointing to hear that Jigani Lake is becoming polluted again. Authorities must focus on proper maintenance. I will also discuss this with the officials," said a retired police official. To ensure proper upkeep, a former rowdy-sheeter who had reformed, was assigned as the lake's caretaker.

BMB

Rape fallout: Police step up vigil in Hampi

Police are stepping up night patrolling, installing special barricades for checking vehicles and directing homestay and resort owners to get CCTV cameras installed in the wake of the recent incident in which two women were allegedly gang-raped near the UNESCO World Heritage Site, a police officer said.

Two women - 27-year-old Israeli tourist and a homestay operator were allegedly gang-raped and assaulted while they were stargazing near Hampi on Thursday night. Three male tourists who were with the women were also assaulted and pushed into a canal and one of them was found dead, they said.

Following the incident, many foreigners are reportedly leaving Hampi and surrounding places.

Ram L Arasiddi, Superintendent of Police of Koppal said highway patrolling vehicles have been doubled and an inspector-level officer has been deputed especially for night rounds. PTI

Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024 passed in Assembly

In a bid to divide Benglauru's civic administration, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed the 'Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024' on Monday amid a walkout by opposition parties. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, introduced the bill in the Assembly, outlining its objectives.

"It is impossible to govern Bengaluru effectively under the current system. Waste management and drinking water supply are major administrative challenges. Bengaluru has grown beyond the vision of its founder, Kempegowda, and this growth cannot be halted now or in the future. Suburban areas like Yelahanka and Kengeri have already been integrated into the municipal limits. Therefore, we are moving towards decentralization of governance."

"We have divided Bengaluru into three districts, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada were separated, and Gadag and Haveri became distinct districts—all for administrative reasons

Support for weak municipalities

Shivakumar said, "We have divided Bengaluru into three districts, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada were separated, and Gadag and Haveri became distinct districts—all for administrative reasons. Some opposition members have questioned the voting rights of nominated members, but the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will not have nominated members.

Only elected representatives from the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assembly, and Legislative Council will have voting rights."

Many BJP legislators took exception for the division of muncipality citing funding issues. Reacting to this, he said, "Some members have raised concerns about funding challenges. We have thought through this as well. As per the 75th Constitutional Amendment, funds allocated to local bodies cannot be diverted elsewhere. At the same time, we cannot pool and redistribute all resources. Hence, we have proposed government support for financially weaker municipal corporations in the bill", he added.

Responsibility towards Bengaluru

On the role of the Chief Minister in city affairs, Shivakumar emphasised, "Some have argued that the CM has no time to focus on Bengaluru. I understand this concern. But with a population of 1.5 crore—25% of the state's total—the CM must conduct meetings regarding the city's administration. Simply doing city rounds is not enough; the CM must actively participate.

They control financial allocations. Today, we are discussing projects like the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) and tunnel roads. If PRR had been implemented earlier, it would have cost ₹3,000–4,000 crore. Now, the cost has risen to ₹26,000 crore. If a metro double-decker project had been launched earlier, we wouldn't be facing the current traffic crisis.

Accountability for all departments

Addressing concerns about administrative efficiency, he stated, "There were previous suggestions from Delhi regarding taxation policies. We made certain tax amendments accordingly. The Greater Bengaluru Authority will include key officials from various departments, including police, water supply (BWSSB), BMTC, BMRCL, disaster management, fire services, traffic police, slum development board, BESCOM, BMLTA, and BDA. Each department will have clear responsibilities. The bill allows for the creation of up to seven corporations, but not more.

A minimum of one and a maximum of seven can be established, depending on further discussions. Each corporation must have a population exceeding 10 lakh, an annual revenue of at least ₹300 crore, and a non-agricultural employment rate above 50%.

The corporations will be named Bengaluru North, South, and Central—no other names will be permitted. Constituencies should not be split between corporations unless absolutely necessary. Each corporation will have a council of 100–150 members.

The term for the mayor and deputy mayor has been extended to 2.5 years. Any no-confidence motion against the mayor must follow strict guidelines."

Manpower shortage, tech glitches to blame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conducting a census on behalf of BBMP.

Notably, the census in Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and Yelahanka was delayed after BBMP decided to cancel tenders of the three zones due to slow progress last year. However, it was restored after a couple of months of deliberation.

The census is trailing in Bengaluru East, RR Nagar, and Bommanahalli zones as well.

"We have covered nearly 50% of our designated area. In Bengaluru Hebbal, the enumeration of nearly 70% of the trees is completed. The given three zones have high tree density, and thus it is taking more time than estimated.

However, we plan to complete the process in these areas by the end of April. We have already counted nearly 2.5 lakh trees from these areas. Our team is counting nearly 8,000 trees every day," said another representative of Envirotech.

So far, nearly 5 lakh trees have been counted across all eight zones in the BBMP limit, with work in the Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, Yelahanka, and Bengaluru South zones trailing.

Sources in BBMP say the process is delayed due to an array of reasons – shortage of manpower, technical glitches in the digital application developed by the Karnataka Remote Sensing Institute to record the census, and delay in paperwork.

"The software being used to enter data faced uncountable glitches during the initial seven-eight months of its operation. The exercise is also marred by manpower issues. Many members hired by Envirotech quit the work due to the requirements that come with the manual enumeration process.

Many workers left, saying they would not be able to carry out the on-ground process. Streamlining paperwork also took months. However, most of the issues are sorted, and the exercise is expected to be over soon," said a source.

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I, Rama Reddy, S/o Munireddy, R/at # 514, Doddanagamangala, Electronics city, Bangalore-560100 here by declare that Rama Reddy and Rama Reddy Munireddy, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 10.03.2025 before notary B. Chitra, Bangalore.

I, Ramya Ranjit Patil alias Panicker Ramya Mohanan D/O Mohanan Kochkunz Panicker W/O Ranjit Patil R/O Naganur Gali Harugeri, Taluk/Raibag, Harugeri, Belgaum, Karnataka - 591220, have changed my name to Panicker Ramya Mohanan.

I Pooja Shree V W/O, Sumesh S Pillai R/o No 110, 1st Floor, Jai Bharathi Signature, Sovereign Unnati Road, Near Satwi Vielle, Kalkere, Bengaluru have changed my name to Pooja Sumesh Pillai.

I Prakash Chand Javaharilal S/O, Jawarilal Jain R/o Mc 605 Parkwest Shapoorji Pallonji Hosakere Road Binnypet Bengaluru 560023 have changed my name to Prakash Chand.

I, Anwaar Fazal, R/o Flat No 1403, Embassy Habitat, No-59 Palace Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560001 have changed my Minor Daughter's Name from Naira Anwaar Fazal to Naira Fazal for all Purposes.

I Preeta Varkey Philip D/o K.C.Varkey,Residing At, No Flat A 1006,Bridge Buena Vista Budigere Cross, Bomenahalli, Bengaluru Rural 560049, have changed my name to Preeta Varkey for all purposes.

I, Shrikant Bhover S/o Rayappa Yamunappa Bhover R/o #64 Khata No-50/1/64 Near Anjaneyaswamy Temple sattnur B'lore-562149 have changed my name to Shrikant Rayappa Bhover

I, Geeta Krishna Kulkarni W/o Sanjay S Gudur R/o H-104 Vaishnavi Ratnam Apts SM Road Jalahalli Cross B'lore-560057 have changed my name to Geeta Sanjay Gudur.

Police 'looked the other way' as bars continued illegal acts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

violence among customers, escalating into a law-and-order issue.

The operation has also raised concerns about the inaction of local police, who seemingly overlooked these ongoing activities in high-profile areas. The authorities' failure to enforce the live band ban allowed such setups to flourish, turning bars into spaces where women are commodified under the pretence of employment.

Legal action Initiated

Following the raid, a case has been registered against the bar owners, building owners, managers, and staff under multiple legal provisions, including Karnataka Police Act, Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, Section 296 of the IPC (obscene acts and songs in public places), Section 79 (insulting a woman's modesty).

Investigations are underway to determine how these establishments continued operations undetected and whether larger networks

are involved in running illegal live band setups across the city. The case has once again brought Bengaluru's enforcement loopholes under scrutiny, raising questions on how many more such venues are operating under the radar.

Challenges to prove consent

City-based advocate and activist Rajalaxmi Ankalagi has emphasised that forcing women to perform activities against their will is a crime, and such cases fall under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act. She pointed out that every place where a woman is employed, be it a household, an office, or even a roadside where a BBMP worker is sweeping, is considered a workplace under the law.

"If a woman is coerced into performing acts she is uncomfortable with, it is a clear violation of her rights. The employer or any individual forcing her into such activities can be booked under the law," she said.

However, Ankalagi also highlighted the challenges in proving consent in such cases. "If a woman is working willingly, there is often no documented proof stating that these activities are part of her job.

No employment letter mentions such tasks, making it difficult to establish whether she is acting under coercion or voluntarily," she said.

She also noted that many women take up such jobs due to financial struggles, lack of awareness, or vulnerability, often as migrants unfamiliar with the language and with limited employment options. This makes them easy targets for exploitation by bar owners and middlemen, forcing them to continue despite their discomfort, she said.

HEALTH TIP: Research links not getting enough sleep to deficits in memory, attention, and decision-making

New mothers often face chronic sleep disruption due to nighttime feedings and care responsibilities

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mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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GENDER BIAS

'AI development faces risk of entrenched bias due to underrepresentation of women'

The underrepresentation of women in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) poses a significant risk of perpetuating the prevailing societal biases into future technologies, according to a top Microsoft executive.

Himani Agrawal, Chief Partner Officer, Microsoft India and South Asia, believes that inclusion is a shared responsibility and if AI continues to be shaped without diverse perspectives, the biases of today risk becoming hardwired into the technology of tomorrow.

"This isn't just a number's problem; it's about the future we're building. If AI is shaping the world, then the people shaping AI need to reflect the world's diversity. Otherwise, the biases of today risk becoming hardwired into the technology of tomorrow.

"That's why we need to start early -- sparking curiosity in young girls, strengthening mentorship networks, and ensuring women have the skills and leadership opportunities to drive AI forward," Agrawal said in a conversation with PTI.

This holistic approach is crucial to address the "leaky pipeline", where entering the workforce and staying there can feel like an uphill task for many women, she added.

This concern is particularly relevant as AI increasingly shapes various aspects of life, from healthcare and finance to education and employment. An AI trained primarily on data reflecting existing societal imbalances could perpetuate those very imbalances, creating a feedback loop of bias.

She shared that women comprise 31.6 per cent of Microsoft's core workforce, and the company is actively working towards better inclusion.

The need for greater female participation is especially critical in emerging fields like cybersecurity, where demand is high, but women remain underrepresented.

"The real challenge and opportunity lies in ensuring that women don't just enter the workforce but thrive in it. Technology has the power to be an equaliser, offering flexible careers, diverse roles, and limitless possibilities. Yet, the crucial transition from mid-level to leadership remains a hurdle for many women. That's where an inclusive culture makes all the difference," Agrawal said.

Inclusion is about fostering a workplace where women don't have to choose between ambition and balance, where mentorship and support systems empower them to navigate pivotal career moments with confidence.

The road ahead is about creating environments where women feel empowered by mentorship, equal access, and a culture that celebrates their contributions, she said.

"True inclusion is about more than representation; it's about reimagining the way work fits into women's lives. When we get the formula right -- when technology, policies, and workplace culture work in harmony -- we unlock limitless potential."

Agrawal underscored the need to ensure that digital access isn't a privilege, but a right. Expanding broadband infrastructure, integrating AI-powered learning platforms into schools, and fostering digital literacy from an early age can be game-changers, she said, turning limitations into opportunities.

With the right digital tools and skills, women who once faced barriers to employment can now start businesses, access new markets, and build sustainable careers--without having to leave their communities.

She advocated for creating an equitable workplace, where men are not mere bystanders but active allies who champion inclusion, challenge biases, and create inclusive spaces. **—PTI**

Can we jinx relationships with our insecurities?

Late actor Matthew Perry, who played the globally loved character of Chandler Bing in the popular sitcom Friends, revealed in his memoir that "Dating Julia Roberts had been too much for me. I had been constantly certain that she was going to break up with me. Why would she not? I was not enough; I could never be enough; I was broken, bent, unlovable." The two actors dated around 1996, and his memoir, Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing, came out in 2022. One can tell the agony of losing Julia stayed with him for all these years.

Our insecurity is our relationship's worst enemy. There can be an amazing person right in front of you, and yet you'll feel inadequate and unfulfilled. They are ready to love you – every single detail of you – but still, you contemplate doing the worst: pushing them away before they start to see the flaws your consciousness has been manifesting over the years in the form of your existence. Let's

explore how we unknowingly jinx our love lives – one self-sabotaging thought at a time.

The "cosmic jinx"

Ever had a perfectly fine relationship until you thought about how fine it was? BOOM – jinxed. Just like anything else, overthinking has the power to ruin things universally. Make sure to pause, breathe, and make good things your new normal – before you over analyse everything your partner is doing and let your relationship crash and burn.

Texting anxiety: A modern love curse

And if overthinking your entire relationship isn't enough, let's throw texting habits into the mix. Oh, why have their replies become so dry? Why aren't they replying to me – it's been four hours?! Before these thoughts hijack your brain, you might need to put a stop to them. Understanding your attachment and detachment styles might be a good place to start.

Insecurity bingo

Everything you've ever disliked about yourself is slowly unfolding, and now you've started ticking all the wrong boxes. Expecting someone to put you first in every situation when you don't even do that for yourself? That's a sure way to cost yourself a relationship.

DIY relationship jinxing

If overthinking were a cake, playing mind games to test your relationship would be the worst cherry on top of this nasty creation. Beware of what you feed your brain every day, and think twice before acting on any imaginary insinuations.

Emotional self-sabotage

But wait, why stop at minor self-doubt when you can go full throttle and pre-plan your emotional downfall? You pull away just as things get serious. You assume rejection before it happens. You've drafted break-up texts for relationships that don't even exist yet. If this sounds familiar, congratulations – you may be the reigning champion of emotionally self-sabotaging every good thing in your life.

So, can we really jinx relationships with our insecurities? Probably. But hey, at least it saves us the trouble of actually enjoying a healthy, loving connection. Sense the sarcasm already?. **—Femina**

All you need to know about...

Sleep debt

Raises risk of infections
Sleep debt and night shifts increase the risk of several common infections, according to a study on Monday.

What is sleep debt
According to researchers from Norway, sleep debt, defined as the gap between sleep need and actual sleep duration, increased infection risk in a dose-dependent manner.

Study of shift work
The study, published in the journal Chronobiology International, examined the effects of sleep patterns and shift work on the immune system among 1,335 nurses from Norway.
The findings showed that shift work -- particularly night shifts -- was associated with a higher risk of several infections, including the common cold. The risk of pneumonia/bronchitis was 129 per cent higher for nurses with moderate sleep debt and 288 per cent for severe sleep debt.
Both sinusitis and gastrointestinal infections also showed higher risks with increasing levels of sleep debt.

Healthcare workers
"These findings highlight the need for tailored interventions to reduce infection risks among healthcare workers," said Siri Waage, from the Norwegian Competence Center for Sleep Disorders, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen.
"Sleep debt and irregular shift patterns, including night work, not only compromise nurses' immune health but could also impact their ability to provide high-quality patient care," Waage added.
In the study, the participants -- mostly female nurses (90.4 per cent), with an average age of 41.9 years -- reported their sleep duration, sleep needs, shift work patterns, and how often they had experienced specific infections over the past three months.
Nurses with moderate sleep debt (one to 120 minutes less sleep than needed) had a 33% higher risk of the common cold, while those with severe sleep debt (more than two hours) had more than double compared to those with no sleep debt.—IANS

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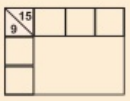
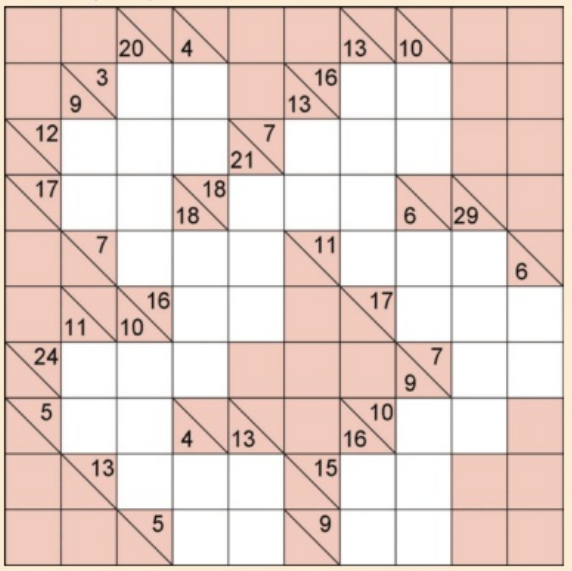
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

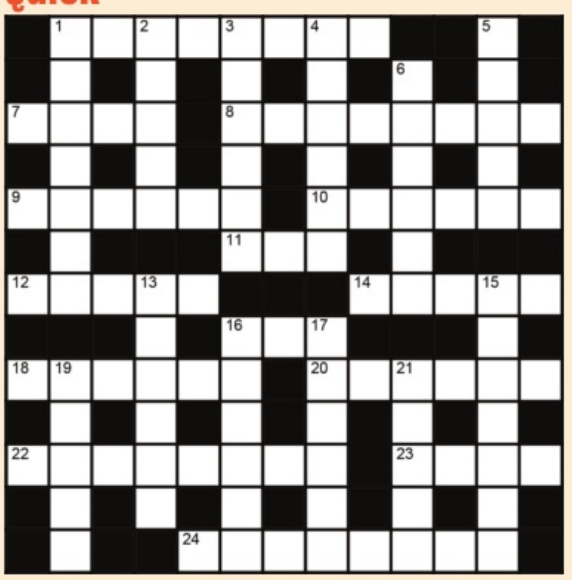


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 An amusing performer (8)
7 Zeus' wife (4)
8 Marooned or forsaken? (4,4)
9 Unidirectional (3,3)
10 Agreement (6)
11 Asian condiment? (3)
12 Those of a feather flock together? (5)
14 ___ ale : water for drinking? (5)
16 Male cat (3)
18 One of the Baltic countries (6)
20 Totalling (6)
22 Hard cement mixture (8)
23 Sleeps briefly (4)
24 Embracing or backing (8)

DOWN

1 Capital of Tamil Nadu (7)
2 A catty comment? (5)
3 Puts off (6)
4 Noisy disturbance (6)
5 A type of a nut (5)
6 Humiliated or degraded (6)
13 Gadget (6)
15 Hospital on Airport road (7)
16 Thin candles (6)
17 ___ __ measure: Bespoke (4,2)
19 House or lodging (5)
21 People of Denmark (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS U

FVO HJIO QJR YDJX, FVO AOWW QJR DOOE.

Linemaro

People call me Raj, but you can call me tonight

Mindchow

A good marriage resembles friendship rather than love

Joke of the day

A square, a triangle, and a hexagon walk into a bar.
Bartender says, "Looks like you guys could use a round."

Loop

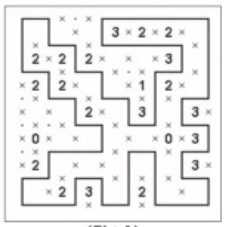
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

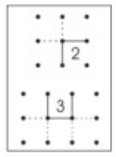
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

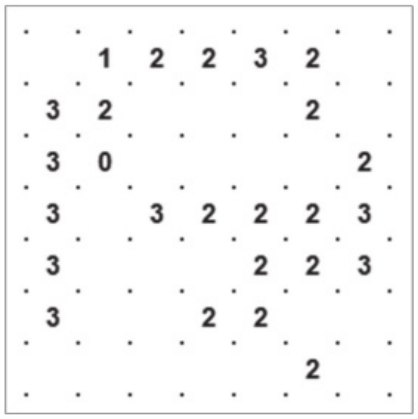
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



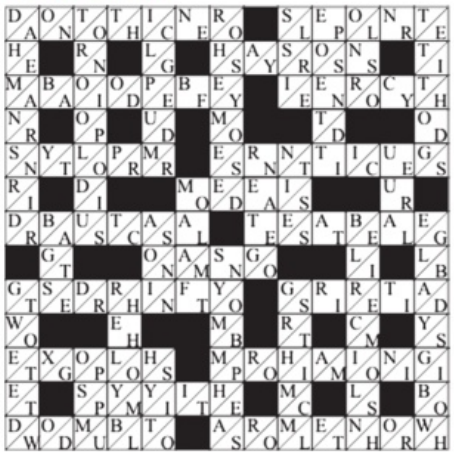
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



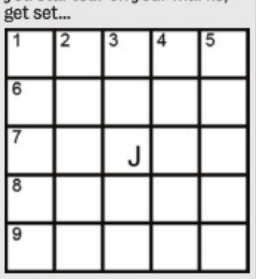
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

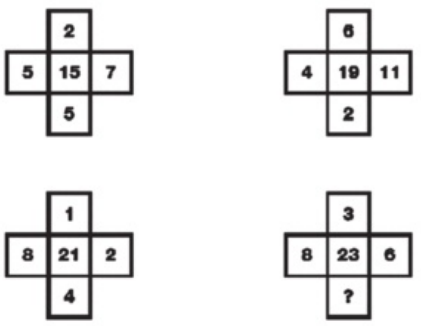
1 Arabs; 6 Piers;
7 Ah jar; 8 Adobe;
9 Gas us

DOWN

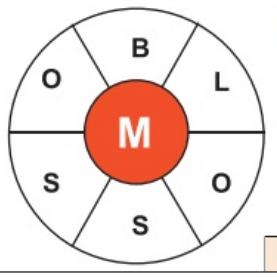
1 Grasp; 2 Arab a;
3 IOU JB; 4 Rased;
5 As she

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the bottom shape?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

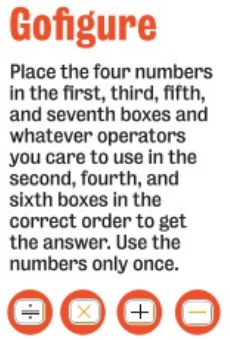
SudokuChallenge

8				9				1
2		9				4		3
		5	1		8	2		
	6	2		5		3	4	
	7	1		8		9	2	
		4	9		2	5		
1		3				7		4
5				1				2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Fish is moved. 2. Tree trunk is not showing. 3. Man has more hair. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Hat is different. 6. Mouth is different.

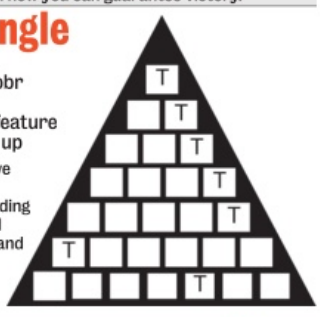
Riddler

You die and the devil says he'll let you go to heaven if you beat him in a game. The devil sits you down at a perfectly round table. He gives himself and you an infinite pile of quarters. He says, "OK, we'll take turns putting one quarter down, no overlapping allowed, and the quarters must rest flat on the table surface. The first guy who can't put a quarter down loses." You guys are about to start playing, and the devil says that he'll go first. However, at this point you immediately interject, and ask if you can go first instead. You make this interjection because you are very smart and can place quarters perfectly, and you know that if you go first, you can guarantee victory. Explain how you can guarantee victory.

Alpha triangle

1 Terabyte
2 Extraterrestrial. abbr
3 Matched items
4 Remainder 5 Wave feature
6 Armstices 7 Bunch up

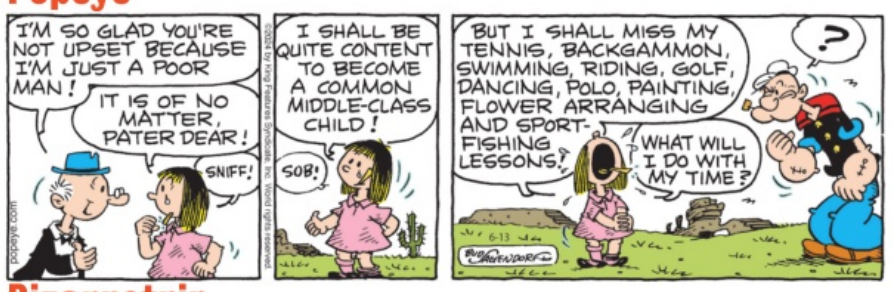
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.



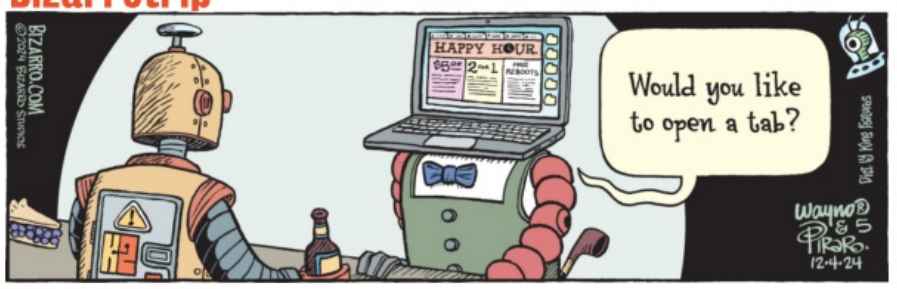
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE NOT UPSET BECAUSE I'M JUST A POOR MAN!
IT IS OF NO MATTER, PATER DEAR!
SNIFF!
I SHALL BE QUITE CONTENT TO BECOME A COMMON MIDDLE-CLASS CHILD!
SOB!
BUT I SHALL MISS MY TENNIS, BACKGAMMON, SWIMMING, RIDING, GOLF, DANCING, POLO, PAINTING, FLOWER ARRANGING AND SPORT-FISHING LESSONS!
WHAT WILL I DO WITH MY TIME?
?

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

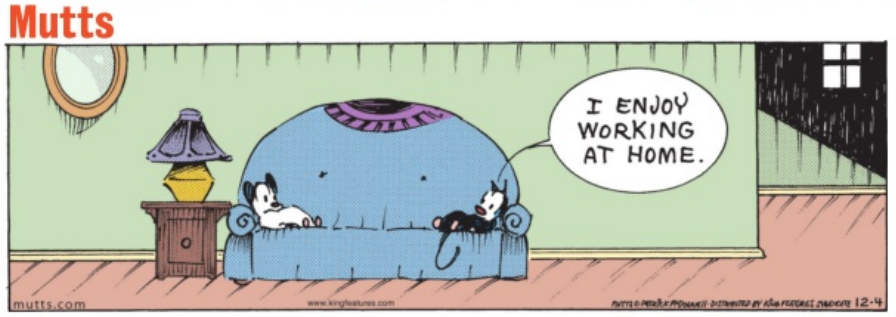
BUDDY THE BEER:
I JUST STOPPED IN ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE GYM!
OH, YOU WORK OUT?
LIKE A BEAST!
YOU OUGHTA SEE MY SIX-PACK!
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

I'VE WON OVER FIFTY DOG SHOWS IN MY TIME.
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA RETIRE?
CHARLOTTE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may feel dull today and experience negative energy, affecting your focus and work performance. Confusion may arise, so it's best to postpone investments in business or assets. If you're considering starting a new business, wait for a better time. Job seekers and professionals may think about enrolling in short-term courses or higher education to enhance their careers.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Avoid rushing into decisions or driving carelessly today. However, with cosmic blessings, you will overcome challenges. Romance may flourish in your personal life, bringing harmony at home. Positive results in partnerships are expected, and love birds may consider marriage. Students may receive good news.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You will feel energetic and courageous, which will reflect in your work. Your focus on goals will be strong, and short trips may help you expand your network. However, avoid harsh conversations with your spouse to maintain harmony in your domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may spend money on family needs, which could impact your financial health. Avoid unnecessary expenditures and read documents carefully before signing anything. To maintain peace in both personal and professional life, be mindful of your words. Dentists, motivational speakers, and call center executives may perform well.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
It's a favorable day for gains, with minimal effort required to achieve results. Past losses may turn into profits due to your wisdom. You might consider taking an academic course to upgrade your skills. Charity or donations may be on your mind, and investments in intellectual assets could be beneficial. Students will likely perform well.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel low on energy, and health issues could bother you today. Chronic ailments may reappear, so take care of yourself. Avoid reckless driving and making hasty decisions, especially in business matters. Important investments should be postponed for now. However, with blessings from elders, the situation may improve by evening.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your destiny is working in your favor, and pending projects may finally move forward. Elderly blessings will help you regain control of messy situations, speeding up your work. Disputes in the family may be resolved, bringing harmony at home. Your creative side may shine, particularly in arts and crafts. You might feel drawn to glamour and aesthetics.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today brings enthusiasm and a positive work ethic. Your focus will help you perform well in business and work, and your boss may appreciate your efforts, potentially leading to a promotion. A visit to a religious place is possible. However, avoid arrogance in your love life to maintain harmony in relationships.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You are blessed by the Moon, and your destiny is on your side. Pending projects will likely restart with the support of elders. Family disputes may be resolved, bringing happiness and harmony at home. Your creativity will shine, and you may feel inspired by arts, films, and glamour.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Overworking may leave you feeling mentally exhausted and unmotivated today. You may struggle with responsibilities, and a lack of patience could lead to arrogance, affecting both personal and professional life. Arguments with your spouse are possible, so handle situations with patience to maintain your social respect.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Luck is in your favor, and opportunities will present themselves. You may form new connections, and your wisdom will help you implement creative plans at work. Your reputation may improve. You could be considering renovations or rebuilding your home or office. Investments in fixed assets may bring future profits.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will dedicate time to creativity and may plan to renovate your home or workplace. Your knowledge and creativity will aid in executing your plans. At work, you may meet new people and explore new contracts. Job seekers might receive promising offers. Students should avoid speculation and focus on their studies.

KIDZONE

Saanvi V Gowda, Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya

Rachana Rajesh, 10 years, National Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER You place a quarter right in the center of the table. After that, whenever the devil places a quarter on the table, mimic his placement on the opposite side of the table. If he has a place to place a quarter, so will you. The devil will run out of places to put a quarter before you do.

BULL'S EYE
bloom, BLOSSOM, boom, bosom, loom, moss

SOLVE IN 1M
= ((25×25)/(2×1×1×2))
= 625/4 =156.25

FAST FIVE

S	A	B	R	A
P	R	I	E	S
R	A	J	A	H
A	B	O	D	E
G	A	U	S	S

STRIKE OUT

D	O	T	T	I	E	R	S	P	O	R	E			
E	R	L	H	Y	S	O	N	T						
A	B	I	D	E	B	Y	E	N	O	C	H			
R	P	U	M		T		T	O						
S	T	O	R	M	E	N	T	I	C	E	S			
I	D		O	D	A	S		R						
R	A	S	C	A	L	T	E	A	B	A	G			
	G	N	A	N	O		L		L					
T	E	R	R	I	F	Y	G	R	E	T	A			
E	X	P	O	S	P	R	I	M	I	N	G			
W		H		M	R	M		S						
		O												
C	O	N	C	R	E	T	E	N	A	P	S			
B		I		P		D		A		I				
L	A	T	V	I	A		A	D	D	I	N	G		
		T	O	M		E								
B	I	R	D	S			A	D	A	M	S			
				S	O	Y		E						
O	N	E	W	A	Y		A	S	S	E	N	T		
N		O		A		R		A						
H	E	R	A		L	E	F	T	B	A	C	K		
H		I		E		F		A		E				
C	O	M	E	D	I	A	N		S					

QUICK

			E	S	P	O	U	S	A	L				
			D	E		R		T		E				
		C	O	N	C	R	E	T	E		N	A	P	S
		B		I		P		D		A		I		
L	A	T	V	I	A		A	D	D	I	N	G		
		T		O	M		E							
B	I	R	D	S			A	D	A	M	S			
		A			S	O	Y		E					
O		E	W	A	Y		A	S	S	E	N	T		
N		O		A		R		A		T				
H	E	R	A		L	E	F	T	B	A	C	K		
H		I		E		F		A		E				
C	O	M	E	D	I	A	N		S					

SUDOKU

8	4	7	2	9	3	6	5	1
2	1	9	5	7	6	4	8	3
6	3	5	1	4	8	2	7	9
9	6	2	7	5	1	3	4	8
4	5	8	3	2	9	1	6	7
3	7	1	6	8	4	9	2	5
7	8	4	9	3	2	5	1	6
1	2	3	8	6	5	7	9	4
5	9	6	4	1	7	8	3	2

MENSA PUZZLE
4. Add together the four outer numbers of each grid. This answer is the central number of the grid one place further clockwise.

QUOTE UNCODE
The more you know, the less you need.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, ET, Set, Rest, Crest, Truces, Cluster.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 2 + 8 + 3 = 17
Medium
3 + 6 + 6 − 7 = 8
Hard
2 + 5 − 1 − 4 = 2

KAKURO

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'Stupid rule'
Hans Zimmer slams Academy's 'stupid rule' for disqualifying 'Dune: Part Two' score due to his use of thematic elements from the first 'Dune' film in the second installment

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Song unveiled

Malleshwaram MLA Dr CN Ashwathnarayan unveiled a song from the movie Marali Manasaagide on Saturday. "I really enjoyed listening to the song - Yedurige Bandare Hrudayake Thondare. I congratulate the team for this wonderful lyrical video which transported me to another world. I wish the cast and crew good luck," Dr Ashwathnarayan said.

The movie is bankrolled by Mudegowda Naveen Kumar RO and Telagi Mallikarjunappa under the Benaka Talkies banner. The songs of the movie are being released through A2 Music. Vinu Manas has scored the film's music and Santosh Venky has sung the song.

Director Nagaraj Shankar said the movie is a romantic musical. "Marali Manasaagide is a mix of two movies. It is my maiden movie as a director in Sandalwood. Prior to this, I made two short films. I am basically a software engineer," said Shankar. Producer Mudegowda Naveen Kumar said he is from Davangere. "The shooting of the movie was held at various places across Karnataka. We are planning to unveil another song of the movie in Kalaburagi on March 23," he said.

Passion for storytelling

Well-known director and actor Anurag Kashyap debuts in Sandalwood with the movie 8, directed by Sujay Shastry known for his previous movies Gubbi Mele Brahmastra and Charlie Alpha Tango. Shastry has also acted in a few films.

8 is being bankrolled by Arvind Venkatesh Reddy under the AVR Pictures banner. Kashyap was in the city for the film's shooting on Friday. When asked what made him act in a Kannada movie, Kashyap said that the persistence of the team and script of the movie made him take up the role.

"Director Sujay Shastry was very keen. I also got too many calls and one well-known Bollywood movie producer advised me to go ahead when I narrated the script of 8 to him. The movie is about football. The story is very emotional. We all go through phases in our life and lose everything. Life gives us a second chance. This movie is about redemption, about finding that second chance through other people and through a sport," Kashyap said.

He thanked the team for coaxing him to act in this movie. "This is something new and I am glad that someone saw beyond the psychopath in me. It is not that I did not make moves based on love, but people only remember me for gangster movies," he said, adding that he wants to watch more Kannada movies.

He was supposed to become a scientist but ended up as a filmmaker. Emphasising on the need for storytellers, he said that stories make people believe and keep them going. "We inspire people only when we tell stories that were not told before," he said.

Mommy's concerns

Deepika speaks about everyday worries of new mothers, her personal goals

Deepika Padukone recently opened up about her journey as a mother, her personal struggles, and her professional ambitions while attending the Forbes 30/50 Global Summit in Abu Dhabi. The actress spoke candidly about her biggest concern for her daughter, Dua, as well as her ongoing efforts to maintain mental well-being and make an impact through her work.

When it comes to Dua, Deepika's priorities shift entirely. She admitted that her daughter is constantly on her mind and even revealed what she googled last. "Definitely some mommy questions like 'When will my baby stop spitting up?' or something to that effect," she said with a laugh, highlighting the everyday concerns of new mothers.

Speaking about her personal goal, Deepika emphasised that peace of mind is her top priority. "Being a survivor of mental illness, for me, the goal is always to be at peace because there is nothing more important than that. It's easier said than done, and it requires work," she shared. The actress has been an outspoken advocate for mental health, having founded the Live Love Laugh Foundation to raise awareness and provide support.

Deepika expressed her desire to create a positive influence through her work. "I see how I can use my influence on various platforms, including the films I choose to do, to create a positive impact," she said. With her strong presence in Indian and global cinema, Deepika continues to break barriers and redefine The actress also reflected on her legacy, recalling the advice given by her father, former badminton champion Prakash Padukone. "People will remember you for the human being that you were," she said.

— ETimes

Tearful filming

Actress Sadie Sink revealed that she "cried" a lot when 'Stranger Things' finished filming and has been left "embarrassed" by the last photos on set.

The 22-year-old actress played Max Mayfield in the Netflix science fiction series since 2017 but said what when production on the show wrapped at the end of last year, there were "some pretty embarrassing photos" of her because of how emotional she had become.

She told The Hollywood Reporter: "I haven't seen anything from it yet, I'm very curious though. It's going to be super emotional so I'm ready to cry with everyone. I had cried so much that my eyes were so puffy — they had never been like that before and there are some embarrassing photos of me just with giant puffy eyes."

Sadie got her big break at the age of 12 when she was cast in the 2012 revival of the classic musical 'Annie' on Broadway, and made a return to singing in the upcoming film 'O'Dessa', an opportunity she said was "scary" but also "perfect" for her.

She said: "When I got the script, I was immediately intrigued but I had to listen to the music first. And then I did and I really fell in love with the character and also just the musical world that (writer-director) Geremy (Jasper) had built. So it seemed like the perfect challenge to take on. "It was different. I hadn't sang in like 10 years, so it was cool to like come into a new voice through 'O'Dessa'. —IANS

PC in India for Rajamouli film shoot

Desi Girl' Priyanka Chopra is in India, creating a buzz among fans, especially after her mother, Madhu Chopra, confirmed her involvement in SS Rajamouli's highly anticipated film, 'SSMB 29'.

The actress was spotted at Odisha airport, where she arrived to resume shooting for the film. This marks a significant moment for Priyanka, as she joins Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran in this massive project.

'SSMB 29', directed by the 'Bahubali' director SS Rajamouli, has been making headlines with its star-studded cast and massive budget. The second schedule of 'SSMB 29' is currently underway in Odisha, with the cast and crew already on location. PeeCee has now rejoined the team to resume filming, adding to the excitement surrounding this massive project. A photo shared on Instagram showed Priyanka Chopra at Odisha Airport, posing with airline crew fans.

She sported a casual yet stylish look, wearing grey denim jeans, a black tank top, and a leather jacket, complemented by a black cap and boots. Prior to this, Priyanka was in Hyderabad for the film's shoot but took a brief hiatus to attend her brother Siddharth Chopra's wedding festivities.

The production of 'SSMB29' commenced in January 2025 with a pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. Mahesh Babu's look for the film has been kept under wraps. The film is touted to be an adventure thriller, drawing comparisons to 'Indiana Jones'. While the complete cast and the film's official title have yet to be announced, as per Hindustan Times, the project is reportedly being made on a staggering budget of Rs.1000 crore. — ETimes